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| APPLICATION NO.                                                                            | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/732,716                                                                                 | 12/10/2003  | Mu-Lin Shen          | AP4664 (15739/214)  | 2049             |
| 23595                                                                                      | 7590        | 03/22/2005           | EXAMINER            |                  |
| NIKOLAI & MERSEREAU, P.A.<br>900 SECOND AVENUE SOUTH<br>SUITE 820<br>MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402 |             |                      | LUGO, CARLOS        |                  |
|                                                                                            |             | ART UNIT             | PAPER NUMBER        |                  |
|                                                                                            |             | 3676                 |                     |                  |

DATE MAILED: 03/22/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

| <b>Office Action Summary</b> | Application No. | Applicant(s) |
|------------------------------|-----------------|--------------|
|                              | 10/732,716      | SHEN, MU-LIN |
| Examiner                     | Art Unit        |              |
| Carlos Lugo                  | 3676            |              |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

1)  Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 December 2003.

2a)  This action is **FINAL**.                            2b)  This action is non-final.

3)  Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

4)  Claim(s) 1-6 is/are pending in the application.  
4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)  Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.

6)  Claim(s) 1 and 3-6 is/are rejected.

7)  Claim(s) 2 is/are objected to.

8)  Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

9)  The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)  The drawing(s) filed on 10 December 2003 is/are: a)  accepted or b)  objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)  The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

12)  Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a)  All b)  Some \* c)  None of:  
1.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3.  Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

1)  Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  
2)  Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  
3)  Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date . . . .  
4)  Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_ .  
5)  Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)  
6)  Other: \_\_\_\_ .

**DETAILED ACTION*****Drawings***

1. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they include the following reference character(s) not mentioned in the description:

- Element 51 is not described in the specification.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d), or amendment to the specification to add the reference character(s) in the description in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(b) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement-drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the examiner does not accept the changes, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

***Claim Objections***

2. **Claim 1 is objected to** because of the following informalities:

- Claim 1 Line 6, change "ring mounted round" to -ring mounted around-.

Appropriate correction is required.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. **Claims 1,3,4, and 6 are rejected** under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Pat No 6,279,360 to Shen (Shen '360) in view of US Pat No 5,157,952 to Lin (Lin '952).

Regarding claim 1, Shen discloses a lock comprising a main body that includes an inside seat (21) including two grooves (216) and an outside seat (22); an inside rose liner (24) mounted around the inside seat and including a central hole, a peripheral wall delimiting the central hole of the inside rose liner; an outside rose liner (26) mounted around the outside seat having two positioning posts (30) extending from an inner side of the outside rose liner, each having a screw hole (301); and two fasteners (31).

However, Shen '360 fails to disclose that the inside rose liner includes at least one pair of notches and a reinforcing ring including two tabs to be received in the grooves of the inside seat. Shen '360 discloses that the inside rose liner includes two tabs (242) that are received in the grooves of the inside seat.

Lin '952 teaches that it is well known in the art to have an inside rose liner (36) that includes at least a pair of notches (363) and to have a reinforcing ring that includes two tabs (351) that are received in grooves (224) of an inside seat.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have the combination of an inner rose liner with a reinforcing ring, instead of having one complete member that interacts with the inner seat of the main body, as taught by Lin '952, into a device as described by Shen '360, in order to reinforce the position of the inner rose with respect to the main body. Furthermore, the fact that the members are separate or not is considered as a design consideration within the art.

As to claim 3, Shen '360, as modified by Lin '952, discloses that the respective tab of the reinforcing ring including an end piece having a width substantially equal to that of the respective groove of the inside seat.

As to claim 4, Shen '360 discloses that the inside seat and the outside seat includes aligned screw holes (at 214 and 232) that are respectively aligned with the grooves of the inside seat, with two screws extending through the screw holes of the inside seat and the outside seat to thereby fix the inside seat and the outside seat together.

As to claim 6, Shen '360 discloses that the outside seat includes an outer threading, with an outside rose liner being threadedly engaged with the outer threading of the outside seat, allowing adjustment of a position of the outside rose liner along the longitudinal axis of the main body relative to the outside seat.

5. **Claim 5 is rejected** under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Pat No 6,279,360 to Shen (Shen '360) in view of US Pat No 5,157,952 to Lin (Lin '952) as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of US Pat No 5,727,406 to Banducci.

Shen '360, as modified by Lin '952, fails to disclose that the reinforcing ring includes an extension that includes holes to receive the fasteners.

Banducci teaches that it is well known in the art to have a ring (102) that includes holes that receive fasteners (160) so as to stable the ring with respect to the assembly (Figure 1).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have a ring with an extension, as taught by Banducci, into a device as described by Shen '360, as modified by Lin '952, in order to stable the ring with respect to the assembly.

#### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

6. **Claim 2 is objected to** as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

#### **Reasons For Allowable Subject Matter**

7. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowable subject matter:

Claim 2 presents allowable subject matter over the prior art of record because the teachings of the references taken as a whole do not teach or render obvious the combination set forth, including that the tabs of the reinforcing ring extends through the notches of the inside rose liner.

Lin '952 teaches that the notches (363) of the inside rose liner (36) receives the tabs of an actuating plate (37), not the tabs of the reinforcing ring (35).

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

***Conclusion***

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Carlos Lugo whose telephone number is 703-305-9747. The examiner can normally be reached on 9-6pm EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel P. Stodola can be reached on 703-308-2686. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-306-5771.

C.L.

Carlos Lugo  
AU 3676

March 7, 2005



DANIEL P. STODOLA  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600